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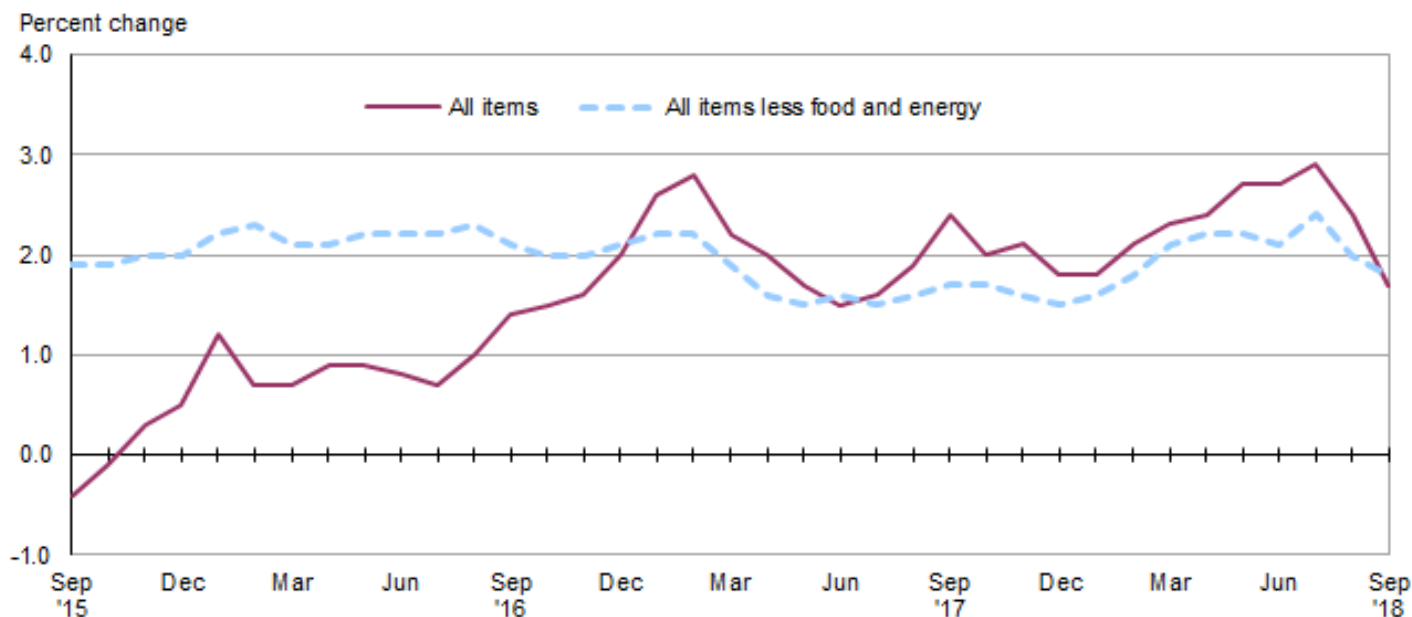
Consumer Price Index, South Region – September 2018

Prices in the South unchanged over the month; up 1.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South was unchanged in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index inched up 0.1 percent over the month. The energy index decreased 0.8 percent, while the food index was up 0.1 percent in September. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U was up 1.7 percent for the 12 months ending September 2018. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent over the past year, while the food index advanced 1.0 percent and the energy index rose 0.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, September 2015–September 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent in September. The food away from home edged up 0.2 percent. The food at home index was unchanged over the month.

The food index rose 1.0 percent since September 2017, primarily due to a 2.0-percent increase in the food away from home index. The food at home index edged up 0.2 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index decreased 0.8 percent in September, led by decreases in the electricity index (-1.2 percent) and the utility (piped) gas service index (-5.2 percent). The motor fuel index was unchanged over the month.

From September 2017—September 2018, the energy index rose 0.9 percent, reflecting a 3.7-percent increase in the motor fuel index. Over the year, the electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes declined, down 2.6 and 8.4 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent over the September pricing period, as increases were recorded for several indexes, most notably apparel (3.7 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent). In contrast, the new and used motor vehicles index declined 1.7 percent.

Since September 2017, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 percent, led by an increase in the shelter index (2.7 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8
February.....	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1
March.....	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3
April.....	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4
May.....	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7
June.....	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7
July.....	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9
August.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4
September.....	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7
October.....	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0		
November.....	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1		
December.....	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8		

The Consumer Price Index for October 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	243.776	243.605	243.640	1.7	-0.1	0.0
All items (December 1977=100).....	395.438	395.162	395.217	-	-	-
Food and beverages	250.474	251.033	251.273	1.0	0.3	0.1
Food	251.835	252.392	252.561	1.0	0.3	0.1
Food at home	237.752	238.259	238.207	0.2	0.2	0.0
Cereal and bakery products	277.871	278.163	278.437	-	0.2	0.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	244.980	245.112	243.757	-	-0.5	-0.6
Dairy and related products	216.153	220.454	219.356	-	1.5	-0.5
Fruits and vegetables	284.158	285.149	285.400	-	0.4	0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	164.091	164.971	165.410	-	0.8	0.3
Other food at home	210.468	209.417	210.183	-	-0.1	0.4
Food away from home.....	275.619	276.255	276.736	2.0	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	231.031	231.616	232.890	0.8	0.8	0.6
Housing	238.577	238.681	238.627	2.0	0.0	0.0
Shelter	274.423	274.581	275.119	2.7	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence	286.015	286.803	287.498	3.3	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	275.797	276.412	277.038	2.7	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	275.794	276.411	277.040	2.7	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	239.692	240.366	237.359	-1.6	-1.0	-1.3
Household energy	193.824	194.147	190.981	-3.1	-1.5	-1.6
Energy services.....	193.878	194.285	190.939	-3.3	-1.5	-1.7
Electricity	192.621	193.147	190.756	-2.6	-1.0	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service	185.967	185.522	175.843	-8.4	-5.4	-5.2
Household furnishings and operations	122.145	121.743	121.586	1.2	-0.5	-0.1
Apparel	133.946	130.556	135.366	0.2	1.1	3.7
Transportation	214.663	214.636	212.987	2.2	-0.8	-0.8
Private transportation	213.617	213.977	212.282	2.4	-0.6	-0.8
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	102.684	102.724	100.958	0.2	-1.7	-1.7
New vehicles	153.424	153.618	153.034	1.0	-0.3	-0.4
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	104.458	104.592	104.192	1.0	-0.3	-0.4
New cars(3).....	152.949	153.097	152.510	1.5	-0.3	-0.4
Used cars and trucks.....	142.287	142.571	136.551	-1.3	-4.0	-4.2
Motor fuel	238.872	239.439	239.321	3.7	0.2	0.0
Gasoline (all types).....	237.621	238.227	238.033	3.5	0.2	-0.1
Unleaded regular(3)	232.236	232.867	232.641	3.4	0.2	-0.1
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	261.054	261.109	261.688	4.6	0.2	0.2
Unleaded premium(3).....	257.344	257.782	257.734	4.3	0.2	0.0
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	942.302	944.864	946.764	-	0.5	0.2
Medical care	464.964	462.520	462.251	1.0	-0.6	-0.1
Medical care commodities.....	367.567	365.796	364.106	-1.0	-0.9	-0.5
Medical care services.....	497.651	494.979	495.209	1.5	-0.5	0.0
Professional services	365.242	364.929	363.837	0.7	-0.4	-0.3
Recreation(2).....	118.616	118.505	119.052	1.1	0.4	0.5
Education and communication(2).....	132.541	132.929	133.443	0.9	0.7	0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,298.416	1,315.132	1,322.891	-	1.9	0.6
Other goods and services	427.067	426.185	426.409	1.5	-0.2	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	243.776	243.605	243.640	1.7	-0.1	0.0
Commodities	185.807	185.429	185.240	0.8	-0.3	-0.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018
Commodities less food and beverages	154.642	153.958	153.630	0.5	-0.7	-0.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	206.058	204.654	206.119	1.5	0.0	0.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	250.150	249.725	249.511	1.8	-0.3	-0.1
Durables	108.264	108.093	106.672	-0.3	-1.5	-1.3
Services	301.949	302.003	302.274	2.2	0.1	0.1
Rent of shelter(1)	281.728	281.891	282.464	2.8	0.3	0.2
Transportation services	359.044	357.381	357.432	3.4	-0.4	0.0
Other services	340.679	341.910	343.782	1.8	0.9	0.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	231.692	231.635	231.684	1.7	0.0	0.0
All items less food	242.272	241.994	242.009	1.8	-0.1	0.0
All items less shelter	232.795	232.501	232.344	1.1	-0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food	157.058	156.398	156.104	0.5	-0.6	-0.2
Nondurables	227.298	226.792	227.699	1.3	0.2	0.4
Nondurables less food	207.305	206.004	207.459	1.4	0.1	0.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	247.456	247.111	247.013	1.8	-0.2	0.0
Services less rent of shelter(1)	336.770	336.694	336.609	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services less medical care services	284.277	284.540	284.812	2.2	0.2	0.1
Energy	210.919	211.352	209.748	0.9	-0.6	-0.8
All items less energy	248.240	248.001	248.221	1.7	0.0	0.1
All items less food and energy	248.016	247.642	247.871	1.8	-0.1	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.019	146.190	145.852	-0.2	-0.8	-0.2
Energy commodities	242.741	243.231	243.222	3.8	0.2	0.0
Services less energy services	313.349	313.364	314.033	2.6	0.2	0.2

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.